

Response: NOAA and EPA invited public comment on the adequacy of Oregon's programs and policies for meeting the 6217(g) agriculture management measures and conditions placed on Oregon's coastal Nonpoint Program. The invitation was provided because NOAA and EPA received expressed concerns that water quality impairments from agricultural activities within the coastal nonpoint management area are widespread and that the State's programs and policies may not adequately meet the 6217(g) management measures for agriculture to protect coastal waters. NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Services' recent listings for coho salmon and draft recovery plans also found that insufficient riparian buffers around agriculture activities are one of the contributors to the salmon decline. These concerns and NMFS's action prompted NOAA and EPA to seek additional information/data from public on this issue. The federal agencies appreciate the comments received and will consider them closely. However, the December 20, 2013, proposed findings did not include a proposed ~~a specific~~ decision on whether or not Oregon had satisfied the CZARA 6217(g) agriculture management measures. Since the public did not have an opportunity to comment on a specific proposed decision and rationale for that decision, the adequacy of Oregon's agriculture programs is not currently being considered as a basis for the ~~final~~ findings that Oregon has failed to submit an approvable coastal nonpoint program. The public will have an opportunity to comment on NOAA and EPA's proposed decision regarding the agriculture management measures ~~at~~ when the adequacy of the entire program is considered at a later date.